
HOW IT WORKS

The workshops in *Mission: Democracy* link historical examples to present times and the everyday world of the students.

Mission: Democracy is intended for teachers teaching democracy, tolerance and human rights to students in their final year of compulsory education and in the upper secondary schools.

The Swedish version offers support and inspiration and contains a large number of interactive workshop exercises for the student.

In the English version, the Living History Forum presents one workshop from each theme.

***Mission: Democracy* – how it works**

In the Swedish context, the methodology package has been designed to work for subject teaching geared primarily towards social science, history and/or Swedish.

The methodology package consists of three themes:

- **Democracy**
- **Tolerance**
- **Human Rights**

The workshops contain a variety of texts, photo analyses, case studies, value exercises, film clips and sound bites. The workshops rely on an active participation from all students.

The students' prior knowledge will determine the degree of difficulty and the level of analysis.

One workshop will take approximately one and a half hours to complete. It is also possible to use only selected exercises or part of a workshop.

The methodology package is constructed to fit a teaching method that demands active participation and reciprocity. Studies have shown that there are three basic principles to achieve a good level of learning: true dedication, active participation and high expectations. *Mission: Democracy* answers to any of these three principles.

The aim of the Living History Forum is to combine facts with emotional involvement and reflections on ethical reflections.

The workshops will give the students time to reflect and form an opinion.

The students are also encouraged to challenge their values and ideas and to avoid simplistic answers. Students will also practice their ability to express their thoughts and opinions, and to listen to others.

Experiences of the Living History Forum

The methodology package has been developed and tested within the framework of the Living History Forum's various projects. Many of the exercises and the methods have already been used in the educational material and the pedagogical work carried out in our public displays. To make each workshop fully comprehensive, new exercises have been developed exclusively for *Mission: Democracy*.

How to use the material

When starting on a new subject, it is advisable to go through important concepts and ideas several times to allow the students enough time to get a proper overview and an understanding of the principles. In the workshop that follows students will take a thorough look into various questions and problems raised.

Why should the school work with *Mission: Democracy*?

The Swedish school should promote democratic values. The Education Act stipulates that education in the school system aims at pupils acquiring and developing knowledge and values. The foundation and the methods used by the Living History Forum is characterised by the promotion of democracy, tolerance and human rights.

Using history as our point of reference to enhance young students' willingness to work for the equal rights of all human beings, the Living History Forum operates as a support and complement to the schools in their work to promote fundamental democratic values.

The Living History Forum constitutes an extra resource for schools by giving content to the teaching of values. The workshops feed into the Swedish curriculum both if one looks at the knowledge requirements and the task of the school to promote respect for human rights and fundamental democratic values and norms.

It is the task of the school to establish well-balanced perspectives including international, ethical and historical perspectives. The curriculum for the compulsory school and the upper secondary school states, among other things, that an historical perspective in the education should enable the students to develop an understanding of the present and a preparedness for the future, and develop their ability to think in dynamic terms.